

FINANCE

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 5:40 p.m.

via Zoom

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Crawford, Alderman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Kris Shewairy, Youth and Recreation Director; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Ron Richardson, Police Chief; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary,

1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Finance and Bills

There were no questions or comments regarding the monthly finance and bills.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Budget 2021-2022

i. Capital Projects

Mr. Saradin presented a list that he explained was put together over the last two to three weeks from the Department Heads. He explained that this is a list of things that they would like to bring to the Council's attention,. He explained that there is another addition from Mr. Ring regarding work on various brick streets as well as \$50,000 for the Forness Park Project.

Mr. Saradin explained that there is currently \$50,000 in a reserve fund for a revaluation and Mr. Piechota, the City Assessor, is requesting that the Council add to that amount as the revaluation will cost a lot more than that. Alderman Crawford asked that Mr. Piechota be present at a later meeting or reach out to the Aldermen so that he can detail the revaluation procedure and what benefit it would bring to the City. He explained that it would be helpful to know this information if the Council is going to set aside money, as they would like to know the benefit the revaluation has to the City.

Chief Tim Richardson explained that he had originally requested \$36,000 for the parking lot and fencing at Fire Station 1. He explained that a house was taken down here in the hopes of putting in the parking lot, but the generator at Station 1 needs to be replaced sooner rather than later. He explained that it is the same price as what is displayed for the parking lot and fence, so he would like to kick the lot and fence down the road to next year in order to focus on the generator replacement.

Chief Tim Richardson explained that Fire Station 1 holds all of the department's communications and without a working generator, we lose the ability to communicate if we lose power. He explained that this is something that we will have to address. He explained that he has also requested money for the repair of concrete aprons at both stations. He explained that he has spoken with Mr. Ring regarding a plan to do Central Fire this year and Fire Station 1 next year. He explained that if he were to categorize the requests, that the generator funding would have the most significant impact.

Alderman Witte asked what the price is for the generator, and Chief Tim Richardson explained that it is \$36,000. He explained that he and Mr. Ring have been working on a few different things and that the parking lot could be done with millings and drainage this year. He explained that this approach would not be capital project worthy and could be done in stages. The generator at Station 1 has been watched and now we are on notice. Alderman Robinson asked the size of the generator. Chief Richardson explained that NYSEG will be coming in to do a gas pressure test to see if we can use gas for the new generator, or if it will have to be diesel fueled. He explained that this will affect the size that we can use at the station. The City Electrician will put together a bid packet after the pressure test is complete. He explained that he is unsure of the size of the old generator, but he can get that for the Council.

Mr. Ring explained that he has been working on the Central Fire HVAC project and \$45,000 has already been set aside. They tried to bid the project out, but it did not go well so they have had to reach out to some consultants. He explained that Clark Patterson Lee has put together a scope of work and what needs to be done for a comprehensive upgrade. He explained that in order to move forward with their proposal we would be responsible for a \$16,000 fee to Clark Patterson Lee to come up with a design for the boiler upgrade, which is sorely needed. He explained that he recommends using \$16,000 of the \$45,000 set aside to get the full design, and then bid out the project breaking it into three categories. He explained that the main boiler replacement would cost between \$53,000 and \$80,000, and the two later phases would consist of work in the equipment bay and then the rest of the building including the offices and sleeping quarters.

Mr. Ring explained that at times one side of the station can be 60 degrees while the other side is 80. It is incredibly inconsistent the way that it is heated and cooled, and Clark Patterson Lee

has presented some great ideas to help with the issues. He explained that the west side of the building is usually the cold side and the east end is hot because of the sun that is on that side. He explained that the barracks and sleeping quarters are on the east side of the building.

Mr. Ring explained that he is asking to move forward with the design and then bid the project out. He explained that he is not asking for money at this time, but he would like the Council to keep in mind that there may be gap funding needed for the boiler replacement. Alderman Witte asked if the new part of the building was taken into consideration, and Mr. Ring explained that this is already being considered as a heating space and that the lower portion is already heated.

Alderman Robinson noted that the total project request of \$572,200 does not include the \$30,000-\$100,000 for the Central HVAC.

Mr. Ring explained that adding \$30,000 to the existing \$45,000 set aside would allow the City to do additional work. Mr. Ring explained that he would like to move into the design phase at this time and then go from there.

Mr. Ring explained that he is asking for about \$100,000 if the Council wants to move forward with brick street upgrades. He explained that this is a semiannual thing that is done, and \$100,000 would update seven streets throughout the City. Alderman Panus asked if we are obligated to keep the streets as brick rather than paving. Mr. Ring explained that we are not obligated but that a lot of these brick streets are 100 years old and have required little maintenance over the years, He explained that they are more sustainable and cost less through the years. Alderman Panus explained that he doesn't disagree, but he wonders what the residents of these streets think. Mr. Ring explained that he has actually gotten some very good support from neighborhoods regarding keeping brick streets.

Alderman Crawford asked if South 5th Street is too far gone and if the recommendation is to do an overlay of blacktop. Mr. Ring explained that this street really has a complete failure of the base. He explained that driveways really are a big factor on brick streets. You typically would have to replace the aprons when paving, but on that street you could overlay without fixing many, if any, aprons. Alderman Crawford asked if this can be addressed with current CHIPS funding. Mr. Ring explained that the CHIPS funding can be used, similar to the extensive upgrades on 17th Street on the section where the brick failed.

Mr. Ring explained that the other three projects are really projects that the planning team has put together and that supports our efforts. He explained that there are currently nine projects in construction and others are in design. He explained that the funding that he is requesting would support the effort for downtown revitalization and walkability trail efforts, as well as would help make Olean a destination.

Mr. Ring explained that the South Union Street Project has been discussed with the Council before. He explained that the City is funding the design portion and engineering takes a great deal of design funds. He noted that, for example, the East State Street Project's design fee was \$300,000 for a smaller project. He explained that if we fund the design fee with our own funds that we maybe can save half of that cost, and possibly do the inspection in house. He explained that we need start-up money to get the ball rolling with the DOT and would use DRI funding for construction.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he was on the local planning committee for the DRI and part of the caveat for City projects is that they were 100% funded by DRI money so that the projects were basically impervious to the whims of future Council's funding desires. He asked if this is not the case at this point. Mr. Ring explained that we could still use consulting funds for design. He explained that it makes it more difficult using that process, but we can. He explained that it seemed logical to save money for construction so that we can try to do the full scope of the project. He explained that the plan was to roll this in with the bonds for East State Street and North Union Street but that a SEQR was needed and the design needed to be further along. He explained that he thought that we had a plan in place but we are still seeking funding for that design. We do have an option to take funding from the grant. Alderman Crawford asked if we are trying to save money from the grant to spend on the construction process, and Mr. Ring explained that it is. Alderman Crawford explained that this is the way that he understood it.

Alderman Witte asked how many more years we have to do the DRI projects. Mr. Ring explained that he does not know if we are in the second or third year. He explained that the goal is to do this project in 2022, Oak Hill Park in 2022 and then the West State Street Project in 2022. Alderman Witte asked if the East State Street Project will occur before or after this project, and Mr. Ring explained that he hopes to begin construction in July after Walkable Olean Phase II is completed.

Mr. Ring explained that we have been discussing the Forness Park Project for some time. He explained that we have been trying to plan out and design this project in house. We are asking for \$50,000 in matching funds in order to leverage grant funds. He explained that we don't have grant funds in place, but we think that there is funding available. If we hold onto this money, then Ms. Kerper can work her magic and apply for funding for playground upgrades, field upgrades and a trail system through the park connecting to the downtown. He explained that we think that \$50,000 could help us get started on what could be a \$2 million project. He explained that if you look at the playground, pavilion and field conditions you will see that upgrades are needed. There is a lot of opportunity and a lot of potential.

Mayor Aiello explained that part of the project would also be lights on fields 8 and 9 as were requested by the softball groups, and upgrades to the softball fields. He explained that if there

is funding a trail could be placed around the pond along with a dock for people to walk out on and fish. He explained that there is a possibility of another restroom facility near fields 8 and 9. It's a complete project and we feel that \$50,000 for a match would help us obtain grant funding for assistance there.

Alderman Witte asked if the project would also include parking lot repaving, and Mayor Aiello responded that it could and that we could also look at a lot by Field 6 for additional parking for people using the path around the park and pond., He explained that a couple of years ago the City looked into a trail off of East State Street coming around the park. With enough grant funding this could be a nice venue. He explained that the softball group could bring tournaments here if the fields were upgraded, He noted that putting lighting back up at Marcus Park is probably not a good idea because of neighborhood complaints.

Alderman Gonzalez asked where the Franchot Park entrance on Greene Street is in terms of priorities for funding. Mr. Ring explained that we have not talked about it much lately, and that as part of the South Union Street Project the Council discussed doing something with the South Union Street entrance to the park. Alderman Gonzalez explained that instead of spending money on a project that is 100% funded by the State, he would rather see money be spent on something like this.

Alderman Crawford asked if the idea for Forness Park is similar to the grant that the City received from the Ralph Wilson Foundation for King Street Park. Mr. Kerper explained that she can't promise \$2 million but that the funding would be similar to the King Street Park funding or Whitney Parklet funding. She explained that if we create a capital account and set aside the funds we can show that we have a match. She explained that it is similar to the farmers' market where the City allocated money, the Council allocated money, and the City applied through the CFA process for funding. She explained that she has not received notice of fund availability but there could be a round and we could go out for funding then. She explained that the best case scenario is that this funding is allocated so that when she writes the application, she can show that the City is committed to the funding. Alderman Crawford explained that this makes sense and it seems that it has worked in the past.

Mr. Ring explained that the restriping projects really tie into the other capital projects. He explained that the East State Street restriping ties into Walkable Olean Phase II and includes traffic calming bump outs and additional parking by the park. He explained that this was planned some time ago, and that the project could create a trail entrance to Forness Park. He explained that this would be at a pretty low cost.

Mr. Ring explained that the Main Street Pedestrian Safety Project would tie into Walkable Olean Phase II. He explained that three people have been hit in this area in the last couple of

years and the restriping would make the crossing distance shorter. He explained that we would also add parking and get rid of the turn lane. The project overall would help slow down cars. Alderman Witte explained that it can be really confusing having the two lanes there and that people will often stay in the right lane when they are turning left. She explained that she feels that reducing to one lane will make the roadway less confusing and safer.

Alderman Gonzalez asked how many accidents there have been and Alderman Witte noted that there have been several close ones. Mr. Ring explained that there were two separate vehicle pedestrian accidents and that people were seriously hurt. When you analyze those types of accidents, he explained that they are generally speed related and having a three lane road in a residential neighborhood isn't great. He explained that the goal of the project is to slow people down and make the crossing shorter. He assumes that the accidents are pretty heavy through here.

Alderman Crawford asked if the restriping of East State Street is included in the \$90,000 ask, and Mr. Ring explained that it is. He explained that small restriping projects tend to be expensive, so we try to lump them together.

Mr. Ring explained that restriping Spring Street would involve moving parking from the north side to the south side and reconfiguring signage. He explained that the school is supporting of the project. Letters were sent to residents some time ago and no negative feedback regarding moving parking was received. He explained that this plan encapsulates the field better and corrects a lot of issues with walkability with the field and school.

Alderman Witte explained that there are a couple of people on the street that are against this change. She explained that most houses the south side of the street have driveways so they can park there. She explained that Eastview has three different parking lots for people to park in as well. She explained that she knows that the people at Aspen Manor aren't thrilled about this, but if the majority support the plan, she will support it. Alderman Panus added that it would be interesting to see what people would think when there is a soccer tournament and the street is blocked by people lined up trying to get in or out of their cars.

Alderman Crawford asked what best practice is as far as parking by a park like this. Mr. Ring explained that everything is really context based. He explained that the ball heading towards the roadway would be stopped by vehicles in a lot of cases. He feels personally that this would be a safety improvement and suggested the road be striped to include a center line. He explained that right now there is no designation of what to do. There is a designated thirty feet where he wouldn't stripe and a handicapped spot would be included. He noted that this is also a Safe Routes to School project.

Mr. Ring explained that having parking on this side of the street is far better than on the other side. You can have a drop off zone and you don't have to have the kids get out of vehicles and cross the street.

Alderman Witte explained that a lot of parks have parking on the same side of the street, but Oak Hill has it on the opposite side. She explained that there are a lot of parking lots as well and parents can park in the huge lot on Alder Street. She explained that she heard from a couple of residents that they are not happy about this.

Mayor Aiello explained that they have been talking about this for several years. He explained that one of the issues with parking as it is, is driveways being blocked. He explained that this would resolve this issue. Mr. Ring added that because of the driveways moving parking would add about 25 spots to the street. He explained that he feels that parking lots are counterproductive.

Mr. Ring explained that he is not sure if Laurens Street will make the final cut for CHIPS funding, but he wanted to mention this project. He would like to expand on what was done on Fourth Street and Washington Street and put in some rain gardens and bump outs. He explained that it is not striped at all and it is a free for all through there. He explained that crossings would be made shorter and the bump outs would be traffic calming and help slow cars down. He explained that all four completed restriping projects would cost \$90,000. Alderman Crawford asked if this would include a travel lane to continue the bike boulevard. Mr. Ring explained that it probably would, with lane markings. He explained that cars would be slowed down through here.

Mr. Shewairy explained that he has two capital projects on the list. He explained that the first is a digital sign near the corner of East State Street and Front Street. He explained that the sign that is there now is a wooden welcome sign that is severely limited because of the design. He explained that he is asking for a digital message board sign similar to the one outside of the middle school. He explained that this will help in the rebranding and marketing effort. He explained that there is a lot of traffic through this area and the sign could advertise events at the Recreation Center, in parks, at Bradner Stadium, and other City-wide events. He explained that it can also be used for notices for snow emergencies and for Chamber of Commerce events. He explained that one of the things that he definitely strives to do in his department is get out there what is going on.

Alderman Robinson explained that it seems that if the digital sign is placed where the current sign is, that vehicles will obstruct the view from the roadway if Mr. Ring completes the restriping project in this area. He added that vandalism may be a concern and asked if there would be adequate lighting to protect the sign. Mr. Shewairy explained that they are not set

with the specific location of the new sign. He explained that there is also plenty of lighting there. He explained that in regards to parking, they can ensure that the sign is high enough to be visible. He noted that a new sign would not be an exact copy of what is here, and he feels that they can accommodate those concerns.

Alderman Crawford explained that he would echo these concerns. He explained that this is probably a pretty good marketing strategy, and asked if we have examples of what other cities have to give us a good visual. Mr. Shewairy explained that it would be similar to the sign portion at the bottom of the current sign, but with LED pixels. He explained that you can have more than one static message that is out there now. He explained that this could be overall marketing for the City as a whole.

Alderman Crawford asked if the sign at the middle school is the same cost as what we are looking to purchase, and Mr. Shewairy responded that the cost is probably slightly more. He explained that the cost is not just for the sign itself, but for the base, sides, and bells and whistles on it.

Mr. Shewairy explained that he sent an email to the Aldermen last week from the company that designs and builds the bumper cars. He explained that they are relatively new to the ice rink market, and there are currently bumper cars in Lockport and Jamestown. He explained that he looked at the cars at the rink in Jamestown and spoke with the staff to get feedback. He explained that the staff says that they are one of the best decisions that they have ever made. He explained that this is another activity to do in the area. He explained that in 2018-2019 over 10,350 people came through the doors for public ice skating, not including the more than 3,000 that came at Christmas during the donated season. He explained that there was a 17 percent increase before COVID hit.

Mr. Shewairy explained that the bumper cars would be a tremendous draw. He explained that we have a fantastic facility and this is another avenue for more revenue and to bring more people in. He explained that we can have them running during public ice skate with half of the rink of the bumper cars and half for ice skating. He explained that the bumper cars can also be used for team building exercises and birthday parties.

Alderman Witte asked how much each car costs, and Mr. Shewairy responded that each car costs \$5,750. He explained that he is asking for \$9,000 up front which would allow for us to pay for freight, as well as 15% down on the cars. He explained that the company would then allow us an 18 month period to pay off the cars, which could be done with revenues earned. Alderman Witte explained that she was thinking that we could also look at corporate sponsors for the cars. Mr. Shewairy explained that we would start with 6 cars and go to 12 if the demand is there. He explained that they would be used for 15 minute intervals and would earn \$120 to

\$240 per hour, depending on how much we charge. He explained that the potential is there for some decent returns.

Alderman Robinson asked how long one battery charge lasts and asked if the charge would last if they were used for back to back parties. Mr. Shewairy explained that any one party would last from one and a half to two hours and there would be plenty of time to charge the cars because there are not back to back parties. He explained that there are a lot of other activities such as hockey that take up time at the rink in between public skating sessions.

Alderman Crawford explained that from past presentations, it seems that the rink time is pretty well booked now. He asked what days and times are being thought of as a selling point for these. Mr. Shewairy explained that there are nine to ten public sessions weekly, and then day time can be added for school groups, during school holidays, for parties, and corporate team building. He explained that not only can you skate, you can also rent bumper cars. Alderman Witte asked if this takes off, would we extend the time that the ice is left on. Mr. Shewairy explained that we definitely could if the demand is there. He explained that this would be a smart business decision. He explained that right now the ice season is 28 weeks long so right now the facility is used for ice skating 2/3 of the year, He explained that the cars could also be used during the summer on the sport court floor.

Alderman Anastasia asked if we would make enough to pay for the cars, and Mr. Shewairy explained that it depends on what you charge. Alderman Anastasia asked if insurance rates would go up because these could be dangerous. Mr. Shewairy explained that he would need to look into that deeper, but he doesn't see that as any more dangerous than public ice skating. He explained that Jamestown has no instances of people being hurt. He explained that the cars are designed for ages 6 to 7, to over 70.

Alderman Witte asked how Jamestown is using theirs now, and Mr. Shewairy explained that it is on a reservation system. He explained that they have had nothing but compliments. Alderman Panus explained that he thinks that this is an awesome thing to do and that it is great to have new activities come around. He asked if the staff would be able to handle mechanical issues. Mr. Shewairy explained that any mechanical issues could be handled by the staff on hand and that instruction would come from the company and would include video backup, if needed.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that the cost to replace a playground in kind is around \$60,000 and he would rather allocate money towards a new playground than to put it towards these two requests.

ii. Fleet Equipment Purchases

Alderman Robinson asked if there is a way to lock in the rate for the fire engine so that we are not hit with a \$17,000 increase. He explained that when he purchases a personal vehicle, if someone tells him that the cost is going to go up, he tells them that he is going to go elsewhere. Chief Tim Richardson explained that he found out that there is a 3% chassis increase for the truck and that the current price is locked in until the 19th. He explained that in order to lock in the price we would need to enter into a purchase agreement prior to this date. He explained that a purchase agreement indicates that we intend to purchase the item but we do not have to come up with the funds at this point. He explained that best case scenario is that the truck is delivered in 16 to 18 months after signing the agreement. He explained that vehicles are taking so long to get here because a lot of factories shut down due to COVID.

Chief Tim Richardson explained that the truck is fully equipped and would save on the Public Safety Equipment line in the 2022-2023 budget since radios and hoses would come with the truck.

Mr. Ring explained that he is requesting three vehicle purchases. He explained that the first is a street sweeper, of which we currently have two. He explained that the newest is 11 years old and every year the mechanic is taking them apart and replacing everything that needs to be replaced. He explained that the environment that we put them in is very taxing so we are looking to replace one. He explained that we previously tried to replace them on a ten year schedule. He explained that the vaccon is used to empty sewers and that the vacuum on the tank is also used to clean catch basins. He explained that this is funded through the Sewer Fund and is over ten years old. He explained that the environment that this is used in, is very corrosive and taxing. He explained that we need to do \$5,000 to \$10,000 in repairs on this, it is starting to show age and it is difficult for the mechanics to update this year to year.

Mr. Ring explained that the hi lift (front end loader) also needs to be replaced. He explained that there is a large bucket on his equipment with four wheels to move it around town. It is used for salt loading and snow pickup, as well as during the mill and pave season. He explained that it is used mostly in the General Fund but that there has been discussion to partly fund this piece of equipment through the Water and Sewer Funds, as they use the equipment as needed as well. Mr. Ring explained that we have two of them in two different sizes. He explained that the larger is used for snow removal and is more than ten years old.

Alderman Crawford asked if any of these vehicles have any salvage value to them, and if so, if there is a way to estimate this value. Mr. Ring explained that the cost that he is presenting includes trade in value considerations. He explained that vaccon is a proprietary company and we would give the truck back to them and get a cost reduction. Mr. Ring explained that we could possibly do the same with the street sweeper, but he is not sure about the hi lift. Alderman Crawford asked if we know the value, and Mr. Ring responded that we do not.

Alderman Crawford asked if the existing pumper would go out of rotation. Chief Tim Richardson explained that it is more likely to be auctioned off to a contractor type company. He explained that the oldest pumper is a 1996 so it is past its useful life of ten year front line, ten year reserve. Alderman Crawford asked then if it is probably worth very little, and Chief Richardson responded that it may be worth \$10,000, but that is shooting high.

Alderman Robinson asked if the street sweeper's lifespan would be shortened by the gravel that was put down on Washington Street. Mr. Ring explained that the street was tarred and chipped, and that the street would go into the sweeper's rotation after time but it would be a few weeks for everything to settle in before the sweeper is sent down that road. He noted that not as much stone as put down as there used to be.

Alderman Witte explained that Salamanca has a vacuum type cleaner that is used to pick up leaves and asked if we have looked into anything like this. Mr. Ring explained that this has come up a couple of times and he has spoken with Mr. Donahue about this machine. He explained that if leaves are clean and only leaves are being picked up it works great but if there is any brush mixed in, there can be mechanical issues and break downs.

Alderman Panus explained that there are companies that go to auction to unload equipment, and explained that this might be beneficial to look into. Alderman Witte explained that during Fleet Maintenance, Mr. Donahue has standardized how this is done. She explained that the County has a company that comes in and takes vehicles to auction, but Mr. Donahue oversees this for the City. Mr. Ring explained that options are weighed in Fleet Maintenance.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is a report out from Senator Schumer's office on funding and that this is obviously a large dollar amount with a potential for bonding. He explained that if we can use these funds and not bond it could help the taxpayers in the long run. He asked if there is any further insight or stipulations on this funding. Mayor Aiello explained that he sat in on a webinar today, and we honestly don't know any more than we knew before. He explained that we are receiving \$1.47 million in two payments of \$736,973 each. He explained that the money is supposed to be to the State within sixty days of the president signing, and then the State has thirty days to get the funding to communities. He explained that States can ask for an additional ninety days to get the money to communities and have to show cause as to why they need this time. He explained that the United States Treasury did not want to deal with the mechanics of sending the funding out to communities, so they have decided to lump the payments based on state and having states pass the money out from there. He explained that additional information really was not given and the Treasury Department will come out with guidelines for the use of the money.

Mayor Aiello explained that NYCOM will keep on top of information regarding this. He explained that he has distributed to the Council a NYCOM document that has some of the information. He explained that they will send out new information as they have it. He explained that New York State is receiving \$35 billion and that the State received \$23 billion last year. He explained that the State should not be cutting any of our funding because they are being made whole on their debt with the Federal stimulus. He explained that we need to continue to remind senators that the State is getting billions from the Feds for their debt, and they shouldn't be taking funding away from municipalities.

Mayor Aiello explained that there is some indication that the funding can be used in relation to impacted services or a reduction in revenue due to the pandemic. It can also possibly be used for investment in our water and sewer or broadband services, but we still have to wait for the Treasury Department to come out with regulations that we will need to follow. He explained that we are going to be held accountable for the use of the funds.

Mr. Saradin explained that we are guaranteed that New York State won't blow our money. He explained that Senator Schumer guaranteed that New York State can't do anything with our share. He explained that communities are guaranteed their money, He explained that there seems to be some confusion between the House and Senate regarding how much we will receive. Mayor Aiello responded that it is his take that what is on the list from Senator Schumer's office is what we are going to receive. He explained that he didn't feel that there was a chance to get more or less, and it is all formula based.

Alderman Witte asked if we will eventually receive the original AIM funding. Mr. Saradin explained that he would like to think that the AIM funding will be restored to 100%, but that remains to be seen. He explained that there was only a five percent reduction in the March payment, which isn't great but is better than ten to twenty percent. He explained that he hopes that it is restored and we receive one hundred percent.

Mr. Saradin explained that there is around \$150,000 left in contingency and he suggests looking at the list of capital projects and expenses to see if there is possibly something or some things that the Council would like to fund from the leftover Contingency. Alderman Crawford asked if there is still \$75,000 left in each Water and Sewer, and Mr. Saradin responded that he is. He explained that he didn't see anything from the list that could use this funding, though. Alderman Crawford explained that a vehicle could possibly use this funding. Mr. Saradin explained that he will have to speak with Mr. DiTanna at Hodgson Russ regarding what is a fair distribution from each of the three funds for vehicles.

Alderman Panus asked if we are still doing the Sidewalk Program. Alderman Crawford explained that in the past we have moved \$25,000 to \$30,000 into a Capital Fund, and he doesn't think

that this has been funded in the budget for the past couple of years, Mayor Aiello explained that he believes that this was a part of last year's Contingency transfer. Alderman Witte explained that she would consider taking this from Contingency this year. Alderman Panus explained that he seems to remember something not meshing right with the sidewalk account, and Mr. Saradin explained that the Capital Fund was designated for sidewalk replacement when a taxpayer helps pay the bill, and there is a separate line item in the budget for general sidewalk repairs,

Alderman Crawford explained that Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro explained in the audit presentation that we have about \$178,000 in Capital Projects, the largest of which is North Union Street, that are essentially over budget and need to be closed. He explained that BWB recommended that the Council transfer money from the General Fund to do this. Mr. Saradin explained that this is correct. He explained that he has been very reluctant to make this request because we have tried to remain in the tax cap for the past two to three years. He did not want to approach this because of how tight the budget is. HE explained that we would have to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Capital Accounts to close these out. Alderman Crawford asked if we are allowed to run these accounts into perpetuity, and what will happen if we don't close them out. Mr. Saradin explained that if ten years from now there are no Capital Projects being worked on, there would be negative cash balance in the bank of \$178,000.

Alderman Crawford explained that he thinks that this is material. We need to consider how to handle this and we need to think of a policy to address this type of situation when the budget is done. He explained that once we are done receiving grant funding from agencies and a Capital Project is over we should have a policy that states that we need to close the account and handle any possible negative balance. He realizes that times are tough, but this is the right thing to do. Mr. Saradin explained that he would suggest transferring the money over the next five years instead of taking one big bite, but it is ultimately a Council decision.

Alderman Crawford asked the Council to go through the budget and come up with any questions or comments that they have, and spend the next week asking questions and for clarifications, as well as voicing concerns and recommend changes, generally on a larger materiality level. He asked that this information be sent to himself, Mr. Saradin or Mayor Aiello. He also asked the Council to consider what they would like to see done on the list of Capital Projects. Mayor Aiello explained that the budget needs to be passed by April 15th.

Alderman Anastasia explained that he feels that the Council should look as far down as possible to get to a zero percent tax increase as we are still in a pandemic. He asked how we can find \$70,000 to \$90,000 and asked that Department Heads consider what they can cut as well. Alderman Crawford explained that he thinks that it is a great sell to go to zero percent, but his concern is that we did it last year and if we do it this year, next year will be difficult too. He

explained that four or five years down the road we will be faced with breaking the tax cap and increasing taxes four or five percent. He explained that his suggestion, if cuts are to be made, to reduce what is being taken from Fund Balance to balance the budget but not to reduce the tax increase. He explained that our costs will continue to grow and he feels that we will only set ourselves up for failure. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he completely agrees. Clawing down to zero percent looks good on paper but it saves the average property owner maybe \$10 a year. He explained that the long term ramifications are much more dangerous.

Alderman Witte explained that 45 to 48 percent of properties in Olean are tax exempt and we need to keep in mind that we are putting more and more of a burden on fewer and fewer taxpayers. She would be willing to raise water and sewer because these are user fees.

Mr. Saradin explained that he agrees with Alderman Crawford 100%. HE explained that he doesn't want Olean to go down the road where taxes need to be increased seven or eight percent because we kept passing budgets with zero percent increases. He explained that not raising taxes is a compounding thing and he doesn't want to see taxpayers with a double digit increase years from now.

Alderman Crawford explained that employee's get 1 ½ to 2 percent every year and pension costs are going up. He explained that we need to consider these increases when determining the budget. He explained that part of the Council's job is to sometimes deliver unfavorable news rather than set the City up for failure.

Mr. Saradin explained that we added \$376,000 to the Fund Balance and at the end of May he can tell the Council with some reasonable assuredness what we may be adding to the Fund Balance this year. He explained that he is convinced 99.9% that we will be adding something from the 2020-2021 budget.

A discussion was set for March 30th to continue the conversation regarding the budget.

iii. Parks Tractor Replacement

Mr. Ring explained that the Fleet committee has decided to purchase a new tractor, rather than leasing. He explained that he will email the Council the payment information. The enclosed tractor used for snow removal and in fields and in parks was having an issue with the exhaust that John Deere could not find or fix and employees were getting sick. He explained that John Deere will take the vehicle back and there are multiple options for the payment of the new tractor. He explained that Fleet has decided to pay for the \$20,000 to \$25,000 piece of equipment outright.

Mr. Saradin explained that what is left in the Fleet account is earmarked largely for the fire truck. Mayor Aiello explained that the pickup cost is \$42,000 and there is \$56,000 in the account. He explained that after a discussion. \$3,000 is what the City would need to cover the difference for the tractor. He explained that we plan on selling the pickup that is being replaced, for which we believe we can get \$1,000 with the plow. He explained that we believe that we can get the other \$2,000 from the current budget so the Council will not be asked for permission to lease as was previously discussed.

5. Committee Reports

None

Mayor Aiello explained that the Council has until Friday to let the manufacturer know if we are interested in the new fire truck. He explained that by that date we will need to know if we are moving ahead to prevent the \$17,000 increase in cost, but payment will not be needed at that time. Alderman Crawford explained that he is fine moving forward and entering the agreement, and the rest of the Council agreed.

Mr. Ring explained that there is an old City well house behind The Pines nursing home. HE explained that it is decommissioned and is often broken into. He would like to demolish the structure and take it off the map to prevent any issues that may occur with break ins. Mayor Aiello explained that the City can do the work and he wanted the Council to be aware of what is going on. He spoke with Mr. Hart and he does not see any issues with this. There were no objections to the demolition by the Council.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Anastasia, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.